(c) and (d) Under this policy, a certain portion of the requirement of sugar of the consumer is made available to him from the Public distribution System at a uniform retail issue price, which is less than the market price. The additional requirement has to be met by him from the free sale market. This dual pricing policy has been found to be most effective and has stood the test of time and is therefore proposed to be continued in the interests of common people, who stand to benefit by its distribution through the Public Distribution System.

Crises in Sugar Industry

*151. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether as reported in the Observer of February 1, 1994 major sugar producers including the President of National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. have warned Government against a crises brewing in the industy :

(b) if so, what is the nature, magnitude and other details of the 'crisis" apprehended by the sugar producers; and

(c) what is Government response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been mainly stated that on account of lower sugar production this season a crisis regarding availability of sugar would develop if the monthly quota mechanism of releases is not used effectively. It has been further estimated that the stocks would decline to 1.5 million tonnes at the end of the seaon, as against more than 3.0 million tonnes at the end of 1992-93 season.

(c) Monthly releases of sugar are regulated keeping in view the production, stocks, availability of alternate sweeteners price trends, requirement for festivals, etc. to ensure adequate availability of sugar in the open market at reasonable prices. Since a spurt in prices, marginal increases had to be made in the monthly quotas. Accordingly from October, 1993 to March, 1994 a total quantity of 37.70 lakh tonnes has been released for internal consumption, as against 37.40 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last season, thereby showing an increase of 0.8% over the previous season.

Government is aware of the likely shortfall in production of sugar during this season which may lead to inadequate carryover stocks at the end of the season. Efforts are being made to boost sugar production during the current season. Other remedial measures, as deemed necessary would be taken at the appropriate time.

Demands of Kendriya Vidyalaya Employees' Association

*152. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN :

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the demands, for acceptance of which the Joint Action Committee of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan's Associations of Enployees has launched a phased nation-wide stir in January, 1994;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by Governmeat to hold bilateral negotiations for a settlement ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and theresults achieved; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Joint Action Committee which includes some office bearers of recognised association gave a list of 25 demands. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan discussed these demands with the represent atives and explained the position in regard to each demand. 16 demands are accepted by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, and 6 are not accepted in view of the policy framework available for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. 3 demands require further examination.